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SUPPLEMENT 20
TO
JOINT EVALUATION OF
SOVIET MISSILE THREAT IN CUBA

PREPARED BY

Guided Missile and Astronautics Intelligence Committee
Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee
National Photographic Interpretation Center

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0100 HOURS
11 NOVEMBER 1962

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SUMMARY

A Navy helicopter overflew the Soviet cargo ship BRATSK on 7 November during which time an airborne neutron counter registered a high activity level. This could be due to the presence of one or more nuclear weapons aboard, although this conclusion is by no means certain in view of the fact that a ship's radar may cause a similar effect. A search of photographic coverage of [redacted] of Mariel City Dock, covering the period during which the BRATSK was being loaded, does not reveal any special containers or security indicative of the presence of nuclear weapons. Further helicopter coverage of the BRATSK with additional nuclear detection instruments is planned for 11 November in an attempt to determine more positively the presence or absence of nuclear weapons.

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DISCUSSION

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The BRATSK arrived in Cuba at an unidentified port shortly after 19 October loaded with deck cargo. It tied up at the Mariel City Dock between [redacted] Photographic coverage shows the BRATSK at [redacted] this pier on [redacted] along with the DVINOGORSK and the METALLURG ANOSOV which had been there since the [redacted]

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On [redacted] the BRATSK was observed underway in the bay, riding high in the water with two trucks and two truck tractors with fuel trailers on the deck forward of the bridge. It presumably later returned to dock and loaded two missile trailers on the aft deck, possibly the two missile transporters observed traveling toward Mariel Port on that day. On [redacted]

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[redacted] the BRATSK was photographed at sea, near the entrance of Mariel Harbor, heading in an easterly direction with the two missile transporters and the two trucks and two truck tractors with fuel trailers on deck. Other than this deck cargo, we have no specific evidence of what the BRATSK is carrying.

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